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the study of insects in general. For convenience the author adopts the following system of classification, viz.: *Coleoptera* (including *Strep-siptera*), *Orthoptera* (including *Euplexoptera* and *Dictyoptera*), *Neuroptera* (including *Trichoptera*, *Thysanura*, *Collembola*, *Mallophaga* and *Thysanoptera*), *Hymenoptera*, *Lepidoptera*, *Hemiptera* (including the sub-orders *Hemiptera-Heteroptera* and *Hemiptera-Homoptera*, and the *Anoplura*), and *Diptera* (including *Aphaniptera*, and possibly *Achreioptera*).

After an introduction concerning insects in general, Mr. Kirby takes up each Order in turn, giving an account of its principal Families, with observations on their habits and economic importance. Many typical species are described and figured, so that it is comparatively easy for the student to identify the principal divisions.

A complete index adds to the usefulness of the book.

The work is necessarily of a very general character, and is well-adapted to serve as an introduction to a fascinating science.

**Birds of Illinois.**<sup>4</sup>—The Natural History Survey of Illinois has published its second volume, part I, a continuation of the descriptive catalogue of the birds of that State, by Robert Ridgway. The Orders treated of in the present volume are the Gallinæ, Limicolæ, Alektorides, Herodiones, Anseres, Steganopodes, Longipennes and Pygopodes.

Thirty-three full page plates give the heads, feet and legs of characteristic types of the Orders.

Mr. Ridgway's well-known competency in this field insures the value of the work.

**The Forces of Nature.**<sup>5</sup>—A small octavo, of some 150 pages, in which are briefly stated the fundamental principles of the laws which govern the operations of nature. Part I contains five chapters treating respectively of the solar system, sound, structure of matter, radiant energy and electricity. Part II comprises a series of disconnected paragraphs, giving the latest discoveries in the physical sciences. This volume is at all odds the most elementary treatise on the subject that could have been devised.

<sup>4</sup> The Ornithology of Illinois. By Robert Ridgway. Natural History Survey of Illinois, Vol. II, Pt. I, Springfield, 1895.

<sup>5</sup> The Forces of Nature. By H. B. Harrop and L. A. Wallis. Columbus, Ohio, 1895.